

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/714,760

Examiner

Thinh T Nguyen

Applicant(s)

EVANS, PAUL

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/27/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9, 11-15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 November 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 10/085,121.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_



David Nelms  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### **Examiner's Amendment.**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

As per permission on the phone conversation on 10/14/2004 with Applicant Legal Representative, Claim 10 is cancelled.

### **Reason for allowance**

2. Claims 1-9,11-15,17-18,20,22-32 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reason for allowance:

A/Applicant's filing of the Terminal Disclaimer has overcome the Double patenting rejection of claims 1-9,11-15,17-18,20,22-32.

#### **B/ I/ Group I: Claims 1-9:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- "a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside connector and the corresponding underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting the topside connector to the set of topside circuit components, the topside connector and the corresponding underside connector engageable with respective underside connectors and topside connectors of other modules, the first and second set of conductive tracks arranged to convey the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals in a stack of modules."--

and all other limitations as recited in claim 1.

**II/ Group II: Claims 11-15:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- "a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside connector and the underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting the topside connector to the topside circuit components, the topside connector and the corresponding underside connector engaged with respective underside connectors and topside connectors of other modules in the stack, the first and second set of conductive tracks arranged to convey the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals in the stack of modules. "--

and all other limitations as recited in claim 11.

**III/ Group III: Claims 17:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- “a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside connector and the corresponding underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting the topside connector to the topside circuit components, the topside connector and the corresponding underside connector engageable with connectors and topside connectors of other modules, the conductive tracks arranged to convey the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals in a stack of modules; and a multiplexor for selectively selecting the transport stream data from a lower module in the stack and an upper module in the stack for acting on by said device. “--  
and all other limitations as recited in claim 17.

**IV/ Group IV: Claims 18:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- “an underside connector corresponding to the topside connector, the underside connector mounted to the underside of the support plate; and a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside connector and the underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting the topside connector to the topside circuit components, the underside connector and the topside connector being engageable with respective underside connectors and topside connectors of other modules, the conductive

tracks arranged to convey transport stream data and transport stream control signals between modules in a stack of modules; “--

and all other limitations as recited in claim 18.

**V/ Group V: Claims 20,22-28:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- “a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside connector and the corresponding underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting the topside connector to the set of topside circuit components, the topside connector and the underside connector being engageable with respective underside connectors and topside connectors of other modules, the first and second set of conductive tracks arranged to convey the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals in a stack of modules, each of the topside and underside connectors comprises a set of pins for carrying memory access signals to enable the module to function as an external memory interface. “--

and all other limitations as recited in claim 20.

**VI/ Group VI: Claims 29:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- “a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside connector and the underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting

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the topside connector to the topside circuit components, the underside connector and the topside connector being engaged with respective underside connectors and topside connectors of other modules in the stack, the first and second set of conductive tracks arranged to convey the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals in the stack of modules; and a multiplexor for selectively selecting the transport stream data from a lower module in the stack and an upper module in the stack for acting on by said device. "--

and all other limitations as recited in claim 29.

**VII/ Group VII: Claims 30:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- "a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside connector and the underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting the topside connector to the topside circuit components, the underside connector and the topside connector being engaged with respective underside connectors and topside connectors of other modules in the stack, the first and second set of conductive tracks arranged to convey the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals in the stack of modules; and

wherein the circuit components constitute a device that does not utilize the

transport stream data and the transport stream control signals, all of the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals being supplied via said topside and underside connectors directly to another module in the stack of modules. "--

and all other limitations as recited in claim 30.

**VIII/ Group VIII: Claims 31:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- "a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside connector and the underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting the topside connector to the set of topside circuit components, the underside connector and the topside connector being engageable with respective underside connectors and topside connectors of other modules, the first and second set of conductive tracks arranged to convey the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals in a stack of modules; and wherein each of the topside and underside connectors comprises a set of pins for carrying memory access signals to enable the module to function as an external memory interface. "--

and all other limitations as recited in claim 31.

**IX/ Group IX: Claims 32:**

None of the references of record teaches or suggests the claimed **STACKABLE MODULE** having the limitations:

-- "a first set of conductive tracks connected directly between the topside

connector and the underside connector and a second set of conductive tracks connecting the topside connector to the topside circuit components, the underside connector and the topside connector being engaged with respective underside connectors and topside connectors of other modules in the stack, the first and second set of conductive tracks arranged to convey the transport stream data and the transport stream control signals in the stack of modules; and wherein each of the topside and underside connectors comprises a set of pins for carrying memory access signals to enable the module to function as an external memory interface. "--

and all other limitations as recited in claim 32.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

### **Conclusion**

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thinh T Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-1790. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am-6:00pm.



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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached at 571-272-1787. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9306 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Thinh T Nguyen 

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David Nelms  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
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